

City of Riverside, California

**Mayor's Night Out
Downtown Neighborhood
October 27, 2004**

Resident #1

The interim homeless shelter is no longer at the Armory. I am disappointed with the NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) syndrome opposing a shelter. Is there any kind of a contingency plan?

While NIMBYism remains a problem, the homeless cold weather shelter is at the National Guard Armory for one more year - December 2004 through March 2005. The City is working hard to site the year-round emergency shelter at 2480 Hulen Place. The Planning Commission has approved the Conditional Use Permit for the Hulen property and the City Council approve the Conditional Use Permit on December 7. The Armory is the contingency plan, and the cold weather shelter will be at the Hulen property in 2005-2006. For further information, please contact Homeless Coordinator Joan Thirkettle at (951) 826-5615.

Resident #2

a) People are interested in low-interest home improvement loans, which may also be an incentive to move Downtown -- are such loans available? Are such loans available for people that do not qualify for low-income assistance?

There are rehabilitation loans available to low income, owner-occupied homeowners throughout the City. RHDC also has a historic rehabilitation loan of up to \$15,000 and there is no income qualification. However, the house does have to qualify as being historic. All code issues must be addressed before any of the homeowner's home improvements can be started.

Generally, there are not any City programs available for moderate-income households, however there are several competitive home loan programs available through private financial institutions. The City recommends homeowners shop carefully by first asking for good faith estimates and compare loan programs and costs. It is not necessary to fill out applications or run a credit check to obtain good faith estimates for comparison.

Through RHDC's Housing Rehabilitation Program, low-income homeowners can get up to \$40,000 to rehabilitate their home. The loans are 3% simple interest loans and are repayable over 20 years. Senior and Disability Grants are available up to \$5,000 for seniors and persons with disabilities to make necessary housing repairs or modifications that allow disabled access. Emergency grants of up to \$5,000 are also available to correct emergency problems. An emergency problem is considered to be a situation that threatens the health and safety of the household residents.

The income threshold for "low income" is earning no more than 80% of the County Median Income, which is:

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>Income</u>
1	\$30,400
2	\$34,750
3	\$39,100
4	\$43,450
5	\$46,900
6	\$50,400
7	\$53,850
8	\$57,350

Anyone interested in the Rehabilitation program, should contact Riverside Housing Development Corp. (RHDC) at (951) 341-6511.

b) It is convenient to have different colored recycling receptacles for various waste types (i.e. blue for recycling, brown for regular trash, etc.), is this possible?

At the direction of the City Council, the Public Works Department analyzed its manual solid waste collection system and presented possible changes to the City Council on August 24, 2004, including the automation of 61% of the accounts in the Downtown area which currently receive manual collection service. The City's Finance Committee reviewed and approved the proposed changes has been meeting with residents affected by the proposed adjustments. This includes public meetings held on November 8, 10, 17, and 18, as well as meetings with concerned individuals. It is anticipated that the proposed changes will be presented to the City Council for consideration in December. Should the City Council approve the proposed changes, conversion of the manual routes to automated collection routes is expected to begin as early as February 2005. Locust Street is one of the accounts proposed to be converted from manual to automated service, and as such you would receive three automated containers—one for refuse, recyclable materials, and greenwaste, respectively. If you have further questions you may contact Deputy Public Works Director Siobhan Foster at (951) 826-5341.

Resident #3

a) What type of code enforcement is present for property maintenance?

City ordinances contain several sections dealing with the maintenance of all properties, the details of which are below:

Section 6.13.010 Duty to Maintain Exterior Structure Appearance

It shall be unlawful for any owner and/or occupant of any property used for commercial, office, industrial or residential purposes to:

A. Fail to maintain in good repair or condition all improvements on the property including, but not limited to, structures, fences, walls, roofs, chimneys, cornices, gutters,

downspouts, drains, porches, steps, landings, fire escapes, exterior stairs, windows, shutters, doors, storefronts, signs, marquees and awnings. "Good repair" shall be judged as to whether the overall appearance results in the diminution of the appearance of the subject property as compared to neighboring properties and shall include, but not limited to, components, that are visible from the public right-of-way.

B. Fail to maintain paint or preservatives as necessary to prevent deterioration or fail to remove major areas of flaking or peeling or chipped or damaged paint that are visible from the public right-of-way.

C. Park or store vehicles in a rear yard such that the vehicles are not screened from view from the public right-of-way by an appropriate fence, wall, or equivalent screening material, which does not cause an unsightly appearance, unless such vehicle is parked in an approved driveway. (Ord. 6609 § 2, 2002)

Section 6.14.020 Duty to maintain landscaping.

A. It shall be unlawful for any owner and/or occupant of property subject to the provisions of Chapter 19.62 of this Code and used for commercial, office, industrial or residential purposes for which landscaping standards or requirements were established by the Zoning Administrator or Planning Commission to fail to maintain such landscaping that is visible from the public right-of-way in accordance with such conditions of approval imposed thereon and generally recognized horticultural standards.

B. It shall be unlawful for any owner and/or occupant of any property used for commercial, office, industrial or residential purposes to:

1. Allow or permit on such property overgrown vegetation including trees, shrubbery, ground covers, lawns and other plantings that is visible from the public right-of-way which from the overall appearance results in the diminution of the appearance of the subject property as compared to adjacent properties.

2. Permit or allow on such property dead, decayed or diseased trees, shrubs, or other vegetation which is otherwise in need of landscape maintenance attention that is visible from the public right-of-way.

3. Maintain such property with a lack of vegetation so as to render the yard areas that are visible from the public right-of-way unsightly and which, from the overall appearance results in a diminution of the appearance of the subject property as compared with adjacent properties.

C. Owners and/or occupants of properties fronting on, or adjacent to, any portion of a street shall comply with the provisions of subsection (B) of this section 6.14.020 as well as Chapter 13.06 for any landscaping along said street or within the street right-of-way adjacent to their property fronting on, or adjacent to, any portion of the street. (Ord. 6726 § 3, 2004; Ord. 6609 § 3, 2002; Ord. 6428 § 1, 1998; Ord. 6022 § 1, 1992)

If you have further questions, please call the Code Compliance Manager Doug Leeper at (951) 826-5633.

b) Riverside is one of the few cities that do not have leash laws. What are the city ordinances for animal control, such as leash laws, etc? Also, there are too many stray cats, skunks, and other critters, this should be addressed through ordinance.

Title 8 of the Riverside Municipal Code contains the City's animal control code. Please note that the city does have a specific Leash Law as spelled out below:

Section 8.04.050 Leash laws -- Dogs.

No person owning or having charge, care, custody or control of any dog shall, either intentionally or unintentionally, cause, permit or allow the same to be or run at large upon any street or other public place, or upon any unenclosed lot or place in the City or upon the private property of another without permission of the person owning or in possession of such property unless such dog is restrained by a substantial chain or leash and is in control of a competent person; provided, however, the provisions of this section shall not apply to any official police dog while such animal is on duty. (Ord. 4803 § 4, 1980; Ord. 4112 § 1 (part), 1974)

The County of Riverside provides animal control services to the city; should you need to report an animal problem, please contact Animal Control at (951) 358-7387.

Resident #4

What is being considered regarding the train horns at night? Is there anyway to prevent conductors from using the horns now, after automation?

At this time the blowing of train horns at roadway crossings is required under Federal regulations. However, the Federal Railroad Administration is finalizing a new rule that if enacted, would allow the establishment of "Quiet Zones", where trains would be prohibited from blowing their horns at roadway crossings. The City is investigating what improvements maybe required to implement a quiet zone. The City is also investigating potential funding sources for quiet zones, which could cost over \$500,000 per crossing to implement. For further information, you may contact Deputy Public Works Director Tom Boyd at (951) 826-5575.

Resident #5

I would like to know what could be done about getting a Stop sign in the corner of Fifth and Locust Street. Cars are going as fast as 45 to 50 mph.

As part of our Neighborhood Traffic Management Program, the City has provisions to install all-way stops (multi-way stops) in residential areas. The residents who would be most impacted by the negative effects of stop signs in front of their homes, the four corner properties, need to sign a request asking for the stop signs. Upon receiving the request from the four corner properties, the city will conduct a traffic survey to determine if the minimum traffic requirements are met to install stop signs. If you have further questions you may call Traffic Engineer Fran Dunajski at (951) 826-5366.

Please also the response to Resident #11.

Resident #6

I would like to request a “Stop” sign on 5th and Locust Street on the corner.

Please see the responses to Resident #5 and Resident #11.

Resident #7

Are there plans to put in a traffic light at the corner of Redwood and Market? It has become more difficult to turn out of Fairmount Park due to oncoming traffic.

There are no plans to install a traffic signal at Redwood and Market Street. However, City staff will be requesting City Council approve installing traffic signals at Market Street and the 60 freeway ramps. If you have further questions, you may call Traffic Engineer Fran Dunajski at (951) 826-5366.

Resident #8

a) What is happening with the delay of reconstructing University Avenue?

Riverside Public Utilities' Water Division has been assisting Public Works with relocating the water main. The project experienced a seven-week delay due to an initial challenge in having the main pipe pass the State's bacterial sample inspection. After the State standards were passed, the system connection was completed on November 2, 2004, and the project is moving forward. For more information regarding this matter, please contact Deputy Public Works Director, Tom Boyd at (951) 826-5341 or Interim Public Utilities Director, David Wright at (951) 826-5781.

b) Why put down new pavement and then dig it up (i.e. Beacon)? It doesn't make sense.

The Water Division constructed the Indian Hill replacement project before the design for the Mary Evans Booster Station was complete. The booster station is located on Beacon Way westerly of Redwood Drive. We did not know how long it would be before the contractor started working on the station due to bidding issues and procurement of materials. The area where the booster station is going was paved after the main replacement because it was not prudent to leave a small area unpaved and the cost to do this was minimal.

The contractor for the booster station has been issued a notice to proceed and is in the process of getting submittals approved before starting any work in the street. There may be some start on electrical conduits in the next few weeks but major excavation for the station vault will not take place until after the New Year, as the street may require full closure and detours while the vault and the piping work is being done. This will provide the least inconvenience to the residents. The street will be repaved around the

construction area after all work is complete. For more information, please contact Interim Public Utilities Director David Wright at (951) 826-5781.

Resident #9

a. What will the city provide to surrounding Evergreen Cemetery worth \$250,000? Do these improvements need approval by the Cultural Heritage Board?

The proposed monies will be spent on curb, gutter and storm drain improvements that should not impact the Cultural Heritage Board. The curbs will be rolled-asphalt curbs and storm drain improvements will only be dealing with existing storm drains. The Cultural Heritage Board will be notified of the project. If you have further questions, you may call Public Works Director Brian Nakamura at (951) 826-5670.

b. Please comment on the suggested closure on Pine and Redwood Streets.

This concept was proposed by a group of Redwood homeowners in hopes of cutting down on cut-through traffic that should be directed to an arterial, such as Brockton. Councilmember Dom Betro will be holding public meetings in the new year to explore alternatives to the present traffic pattern. The City will review the possibilities if the proposal moves forward. If you have further questions, contact Traffic Engineer Fran Dunajski at (951) 826-5366.

c. Street sweeping is supposed to be every other Monday on 11th Street (between Locust and Cedar Streets) and still cars parked on the street. We never know when the street sweeper is coming. Is it possible to have a regular schedule, and if cars are parked during that time, they will be ticketed. In addition, may signs be posted up with the time and days of street sweeping?

This area is currently on a regular every other Monday morning schedule. The City does not have any current plans to post streets with the sweeping schedule, but we can monitor the area and post cars with a flyer advising them of the current schedule. If you have further questions, you may call the Street Division of Public Works at (951) 351-6127.

d. What is Mayor Loveridge's stance on Measure FF?

Measure FF was a Charter amendment on the November ballot, asking whether the Charter should be amended to provide that the Mayor appoint the chairperson of all City Council standing committees. The Mayor supported the measure.

e. Burying utility lines in new areas of Riverside would beautify downtown Riverside; can we at least make a start on this?

The City is currently making headway in burying some utility lines underground. Money has been allocated towards this endeavor but it is an extensive undertaking, so progress in relocating lines underground is slow. Though costs to underground utility lines are quite

expensive, they are not built into electric rates. Please contact the Interim Public Utilities Director David Wright at (951) 826-5781.

Resident #10

Why are there no residential trash bins for recycling paper and cans/glasses in Downtown? If these cannot be provided to each home, is there a city-designated location where such items can be deposited?

At the direction of the City Council, the Public Works Department analyzed its manual solid waste collection system and presented possible improvements to the City Council on August 24, 2004, including the automation of 61% of the accounts in the Downtown area which currently receive manual collection service. The City's Finance Committee reviewed and approved the proposed improvements in September. Since that time, the Public Works Department has been meeting with residents affected by the proposed adjustments. The proposed improvements will be presented to the City Council for consideration in December. (Please see response to Resident #2)

- There are eight newspaper collection site throughout the City:
- Adams and Hwy. 91 behind the Shell station.
- Food 4 Less at California and Van Buren
- Tyler & Magnolia by the China Star restaurant
- Adams & Arlington Stater Bros. Shopping Center, behind the donut shop
- Pine & Tequesquite, Pine Shopping Center
- Magnolia & Beatty at the Big Five sporting goods store
- Trautwein & Alessandro, behind Kmart

For further information, please contact Deputy Public Works Director, Siobhan Foster at (951) 826-5341.

Resident #11

One neighbor refuses to get on board with the installment of a "Stop" sign on Brockton & Second. How do applicants get around the objection if all other neighbors approve?

The City's residential multi-way stop policy was established several years ago and the policy states that all the residents at the intersection must be in favor of a multi-way stop installation. This is because they are the most affected by the negative side effects of having a multi-way stop installed in front of their property. They will bear the brunt of the noise, vehicle revving, braking, and emissions.

In the years since this policy has been established, there has been only one occasion when all the neighbors did not agree to a multi-way stop installation. In that case, the neighbors that wanted the stop signs continued to try to persuade the one that did not and they eventually went in. Another option for the neighborhood would be to petition for

the stop signs and have the case heard by the Parking, Traffic, and Streets Commission. This is a public hearing and all residents affected could present their case. If the Commission decided to approve the installation of the multi-way stop control and there was still objection by one of the residents, an appeal could be made to the City Council. If you have further questions, contact Traffic Engineer Fran Dunajski at (951) 826-5366.

Resident #12

There are adjacent properties for sale on Indian Hill facing the river. Will they be required to be built according to historic district guidelines to protect the integrity of the historic neighborhood?

Plans have been received for three, single-family residences on the north side of Indian Hill Road, between the street and the bike path. None of the plans are complete nor ready to be processed. We have had preliminary discussions with one property owner who has expressed a willingness to meet with Indian Hill neighbors before finalizing the application. Any future development will need to comply with City zoning, environmental, and historic preservation regulations and policies. For more information, please contact Senior Planner Steve Hayes at (951) 826-5775.

Resident #13

At the “Stop” sign site at Brockton and Second Streets, the palm trees are so wide at the base that it is hard to see around them. This makes a dangerous corner.

We will work with the Parks and Recreation Department and Traffic Engineering Department to determine the best resolution for this situation. Removal of such trees must go through the City's Street Tree Committee and the City would likely replace such trees to maintain the characteristics of the neighborhood. An assessment will be made as soon as possible to assess and correct this situation. For more information, please contact Public Works Director Brian Nakamura at (951) 826-5341.

Resident #14

Has Public Utilities thought to create a special rate to Evergreen Cemetery to ensure it stays green?

The City of Riverside Public Utilities currently extends a special low water rate to historic cemeteries in order to offset the cost of maintenance. This WA 7 rate has been adopted for the last several years and provides Evergreen with a very reasonable charge when it comes to water. For more information, please contact Interim Public Utilities Director David Wright at (951) 826-5781.